

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method performed by a data acquisition device, which is configured to generate at least two different types of data objects, to distinguish between the at least two different types of data objects, and to selectively and automatically transfer only some of the data objects, including a new data object to a user storage device and based upon a determination of data object type, the method comprising:

detecting that a new data object has been created and stored on the data acquisition device;

determining a type of the new data object from a plurality of available types, wherein the plurality of available types comprise a sound data object type, a voice data object type, an image data object type, and a video data object type;

accessing a configuration file which specifies which type of data objects are to be stored locally and which type of data objects are to be stored remotely, and determining that the configuration file specifies that the new data object is of a particular type that should be stored remotely at a user storage device;

establishing a communication session with an online connection service and communicating with the online connection service to obtain a list of available user storage devices associated with the data acquisition device wherein the list includes a network address for each available user storage device on the list;

selecting, from the list, an available user storage device on which to store the new data object;

establishing a communication session with the selected user storage device using the network address corresponding to the selected user storage device; and

sending the new data object to the selected user storage device for storage therein.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a prioritized list of available user storage devices associated with the data acquisition device from the online connection service.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising receiving information on the communications protocols supported by each available user storage device on the prioritized list.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the sending of the new data object is in accordance with the communications protocol supported by the selected user storage device.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein communicating with the online connection service comprises sending authentication information to authenticate the data acquisition device to the online connection service.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising requesting permission to store the new data object at the selected user storage device before sending the object to the selected user storage device.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the requesting permission is performed implicitly by sending authentication information to the selected user storage device and receiving an authentication success message from the selected user storage device.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein establishing the communication session with the selected user storage device comprises establishing a peer-to-peer link with the at least one available user storage device.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein establishing the communication session with the selected user storage device comprises establishing a link with the selected user storage device through an intermediate proxy server.

14. (Previously Presented) A recordable type medium, having stored thereon a sequence of instructions which when executed by a data acquisition device, causes the data acquisition device to perform a method to transfer a new data object to a user storage device, wherein the data acquisition device is configured to generate at least two different types of data objects, to distinguish between the at least two different types of data objects, and to selectively and automatically transfer only some of the data objects, including the new data object to the user storage device and based upon a determination of data object type, and wherein the method performed comprises:

detecting that a new data object has been created and stored on the data acquisition device;

determining a type of the new data object from a plurality of available types, wherein the plurality of available types comprise a sound data object type, a voice data object type, an image data object type, and a video data object type;

accessing a configuration file which specifies which type of data objects are to be stored locally and which type of data objects are to be stored remotely, and determining that the configuration file specifies that the new data object is of a particular type that should be stored remotely at a user storage device;

establishing a communication session with an online connection service and communicating with the online connection service to obtain a list of available user storage devices associated with the data acquisition device wherein the list includes a network address for each available user storage device on the list, wherein the online connection service creates the list by retrieving presence information from the available user storage devices, the presence information being retrieved using instant message technology,

selecting, from the list, an available user storage device on which to store the new data object, wherein the selection is based on the connection route to the available user storage device, wherein the connection route comprises one of a point-to-point route, or an indirect route that uses an intermediate proxy server;

establishing a communication session with the selected user storage device using the network address and the connection route corresponding to the selected user storage device; and

sending the new data object to the selected user storage device for storage therein.

15-17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A data acquisition device, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory coupled to the processor, the memory storing instructions which when executed by the processor, cause the data acquisition device to perform a method for transferring a new data object to a user storage device, wherein the data acquisition device is configured to generate at least two different types of data objects, to distinguish between the at least two different types of data objects, and to selectively and automatically transfer only some of the data objects, including the new data object to the user storage device and based upon a determination of data object type, and wherein the method performed comprises:

detecting that a new data object has been created and stored on the data acquisition device;

determining a type of the new data object from a plurality of available types, wherein the plurality of available types comprise a sound data object type, a voice data object type, an image data object type, and a video data object type;

accessing a configuration file which specifies which type of data objects are to be stored locally and which type of data objects are to be stored remotely, and determining that the configuration file specifies that the new data object is of a particular type that should be stored remotely at a user storage device; establishing a communication session with an online connection service and communicating with the online connection service to obtain a list of available user storage devices associated with the data acquisition device wherein the list includes a network address for each available user storage device on the list;

selecting, from the list, an available user storage device on which to store the new data object based at least in part on the determination of the type of the new data object;

establishing a communication session with the selected user storage device using the network address corresponding to the selected user storage device; and

sending the new data object to the selected user storage device for storage therein.

19-21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration file included on the data acquisition device is input by a user.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the online connection service stores active presence information about the available user storage devices associated with the data acquisition device.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein establishing a communications session with the selected user storage device comprises a communications session which is separate and distinct from the communications session with the online connection service.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein image data objects are of the particular type configured for automatic transfer, while voice data objects are not, such that image data objects are selected for automatic transfer while voice data objects are refrained from being selected for automatic transfer.

26. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the selected user storage device is one of a user's personal desktop computer, or a user's personal notebook computer.